

# WILDLIFE TALES



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September 2016

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**Wildlife Tales** is the official newsletter of  
**Wildlife Animal Rescue & Care Society Inc.**

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**NEXT MEETINGS:**

18<sup>th</sup> September (AGM), 16<sup>th</sup> October then 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016

*General Meetings will be held on the 3rd Sunday in the month at 10 am,  
at Wyoming Community Centre, 147 Maiden Brush Rd, Wyoming*

## Macropod Section

We've had a busy time of the year for pouch checks, with many ARC members making stops to check dead animals. Most of them have been boys, though we've also had a few deceased or unviable pinkies found in pouches. I would like to ask everyone to call the ARC line and get an ARC number for stops they make to pouch check - doing this means we can effectively see the 'problem areas', and perhaps take action with council to get more warning signs or other measures put in place to prevent roadkill. So please, report in if you stop for a pouch check.

With all the pouch checks we've been doing, it's a little surprising we've had only a few babies come in to care. Most of those coming in have been eastern greys, all of which are doing well. We have also had a wallaroo come in to care, which is unusual - they're not that common on the Central Coast. She came in after being hit by a car and had a serious concussion, but is now capable of doing normal macropod things (including the naughty things, like peeing in my slippers and hopping on the lounge).

I have started tentative plans for a macropod training day, date yet to be confirmed, but please look out for an announcement about macropod training soon. The plan is to have a day covering mostly aspects of rescue, pouch checking and handling. We have been seeing more rescues of seriously injured adult animals recently, so hopefully this training will help get a few more rescuers on board.

Kelly Hunt  
Macropod Head Carer



## Others Section

Hi everyone,

Few echidnas going walkabouts these last few weeks!

Maybe it's the boys due to the breeding season being June through till September!

Scott and I tried very hard to free an echidna from under some pavers and also the fencing that seemed to be blocking him also. Despite Scott best efforts we decided to leave this one in the hopes it moved on which I'm glad to say it did! That night! Proving as Simone found out recently echidnas stand their ground and dig very fast!

On the bandicoot front we successfully released Simone's juvenile bandicoot well done Simone for her efforts there.

We also had one large male bandicoot over 1kg who came in with severe head injuries but im pleased to say with a few days TLC he was also successfully released.

Thanks to all who help in the section.

Regards Sharron Jones

Head carer Others Section



## Aussie Backyard Bird Count

The Aussie Backyard Bird Count is on again in October. This is an initiative of Birdlife Australia and the data is used to see how Australian birds are faring. Further information and registration is available on the website <http://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>

# Sarah's Report

For the past 22 weeks, I have been involved in the Max Potential program, an initiative of ClubsNSW, which offers personal leadership development, including coaching, to young leaders from schools, TAFE, University and the community to help them maximise their potential during the final years at school and beyond. Gosford RSL Club has been successfully facilitating the program in the Gosford City local government area since 2008

It also encourages young adults to focus on the local community and ways that they can work to improve it.

I am a junior member of Wildlife ARC and for my community project I chose to highlight the incredible work that Wildlife ARC does in our local community. Part of my project was a presentation at my school (St Joseph's Catholic College, East Gosford) about Wildlife ARC and the care and rescue of native animals. I handed out '30<sup>th</sup> Birthday' flyers and answered several questions. We also had to write a media release about our community project.

The program culminated in a 'showcase' held at the Gosford RSL on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August displaying each of the community projects. This was attended by sponsors, coaches, politicians and community leaders.

Sarah Byrne

Year 11

St Joseph's Catholic College

East Gosford



# Bird Report

As winter draws to an end, experienced bird rehabilitators are gearing up for the onslaught of baby birds that come in to care every spring. It looks like it is going to be a busy season with some species of bird breeding right through winter due to the favourable conditions. Rainbow lorikeets, Masked Lapwing (aka Plovers), Noisy Miners, Ducks, Magpies and Doves have all enjoyed the mild winter and we have been seeing a number of chicks come into care in the last few weeks. However, not all rescued chicks should be taken into care. If they are fit and healthy they should be reunited with their family where possible.

Kim Strong started the “I want my Mum” campaign in 2011 and is sharing it to encourage all rescuers (members of public as well as licensed carers) to attempt to reunite chicks rather than bring them into care to be hand raised. Thank you for sharing, Kim!



- 1 Take notes of rescue location - Chicks may be reunited with their parents**
- 2 When to bring a chick into care...**
  - If a chick is cold to touch
  - If a chick is injured
  - If a chick's parents aren't around for an extended period
  - If a chick is not being fed by its parents
  - If a chick is in immediate danger from predators (cats, dogs, foxes, rats)
  - If a chick is being attacked by birds
  - If a chick is on the ground at night fall
  - If unsure call a your nearest wildlife care group
- 3 What to do...**
  - Keep chick warm, dark and quiet
  - Place chick on a towel in a box
  - Keep away from kids and pets
  - Call a wildlife care group ASAP - your speed in transfer will save lives
  - Keep as much information as possible on rescue location e.g. street, house no, park or tree location
  - If injured take to the nearest avian vet
  - Do not feed unless instructed
- 4 The best outcome is for a chick to be reunited with its parents**

WILD FACT SHEET

## Why do Ducklings and Masked Lapwing Chicks get picked up?

Masked Lapwing chicks and ducklings are often kidnapped by well-meaning people. The parent bird's only means of defending their young is to fly off in an attempt to distract a potential predator and to lead them away from where the defenceless youngsters are hiding. The chicks are then picked up by passers-by who think they have been abandoned.

## What about Magpies?

Magpies hunt and feed on the ground so when the young bird leaves the nest, it will spend a couple of weeks on the ground learning to hunt and how to fly properly. In addition, adult magpies will often leave them unattended for long periods to encourage them to develop their skills. This is an important, but dangerous time and juvenile magpies are often friendly and easily caught by people who think there is something wrong because they are on the ground.

Instead of picking up ducklings, lapwing chicks and magpies that are on the ground they should be observed from a distance to see if the parent birds return and to assess the threat from possible predators.



Left: Young Magpie learning how to hunt crickets

Below: Nestling Noisy Miner begging for food



## ***Barn Owl Hit by Truck***

The call came in on a Friday night – “a barn owl has been hit by a truck at Wadalba”, “ok, give me the details and I will go pick it up.” I ring first to confirm the address and to try and establish if the bird is an owl or a tawny frogmouth, the description sounds like an owl, and since they don’t come into care too often, I was hoping the damage wasn’t too bad. What a surprise when I arrive at the destination to see the hubby of the person who contacted us is actually the brother of a friend from school whom I haven’t seen for many years. He drives an automotive carrier and the owl had flown into his truck as he exited the freeway at Sparks Rd. Collisions with vehicles usually result in broken bones and it was clear this one had problems. X-rays showed a broken wing that was fixable and a broken pelvis that may or may not mend well. After a week of intensive care in the hope the pelvis would be ok, the decision was made to euthanise as the leg appeared to be deteriorating. RIP, beautiful bird!

Jacky Hunt (Head Carer Birds)

# Training Calendar

## ***Possums and Gliders***

Date: Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September  
Time: 9am-4pm  
Venue: Wyoming Community Centre  
Presenters: Alison George (Head Carer)  
Audience: All interested members



## ***Getting Started with Birds***

Date: Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October  
Time: 9am-4pm  
Venue: Hunt Property Wyong Creek (address will be provided upon registration)  
Presenter: Jacky Hunt (Head Carer)  
Audience: New members, older members who haven't done bird training in the past 3 years.

## ***Flying Foxes and Microbats***

Date: Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October  
Time: 9am-4pm  
Venue: Wambina, Matcham  
Presenters: Kerryn Parry-Jones (Head Carer)  
Audience: All interested members

## ***Introductory Training***

Date: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November  
Time: 9am – 4pm  
Venue: Wyoming Community Centre  
Presenters: Kelly Hunt, Jacky Hunt  
Audience: New members, phonies, existing members who haven't done an introductory day



## ***Getting Started with Birds*** (repeat of above)

Date: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November  
Time: 9am-4pm  
Venue: Hunt Property Wyong Creek (address will be provided upon registration)  
Presenter: Jacky Hunt (Head Carer)  
Audience: New members, older members who haven't done bird training in the past 3 years.

## ***Reptiles, Frogs and Snakes***

Date: Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November  
Time: 9am-4pm  
Venue: Wyoming Community Centre  
Presenters: Tristan Varman (Head Carer Reptiles), Dave Cooney (Head Carer Snakes), Sam Chatfield (Deputy Head Carer Reptiles)  
Audience: All interested members

## ***Snakes – Practical Handling***

Date: Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November

Time: 9am-4pm

Venue: Wambina, Matcham

Presenters: Dave Cooney (Head Carer)

Audience: This follows the Saturday session for those who are specifically interested in working with snakes

## ***Others***

Date: December/January (to be confirmed)

Time: 9am – 4pm

Venue: Wyoming Community Centre

Presenters: Kelly Hunt (Deputy Head Carer)

Audience: All interested members

## ***Macropod and Wombat Rescue***

Date: December/January (to be confirmed)

Time: 10am – 2pm

Venue: Hunt Property, Wyong Creek (address will be provided upon registration)

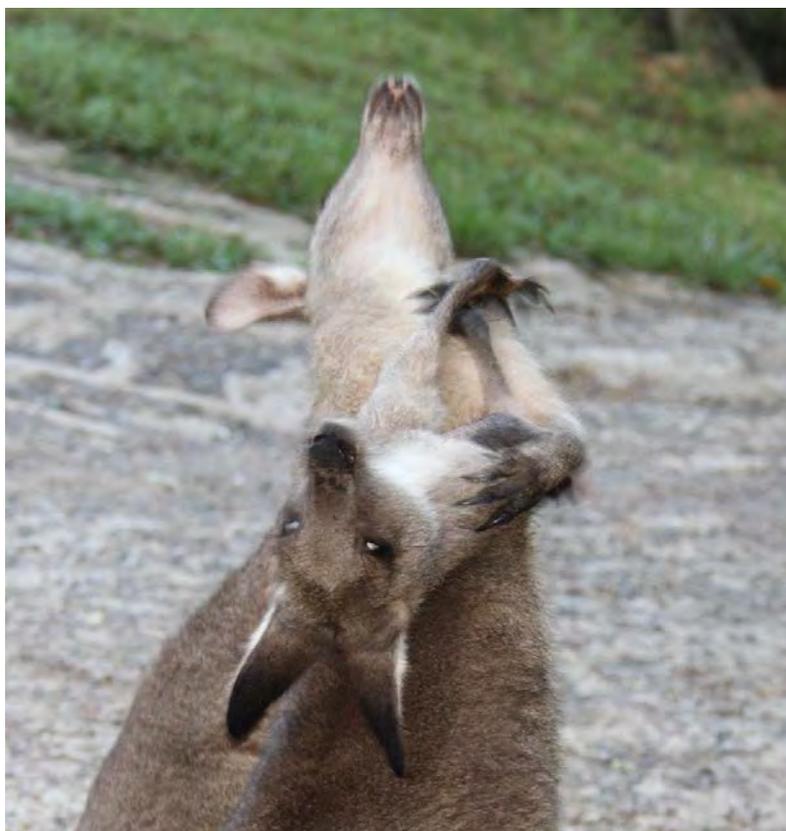
Presenter: Kelly Hunt (Head Carer)

Audience: Adult members only due to the dangerous and potentially graphic nature of these rescues

Wildlife ARC training days are free of charge for financial members, however, manuals and equipment will need to be paid for but are not compulsory. Further information about each training will be available via the database and by email or contact Jacky Hunt (training coordinator) or the Head Carer for the section you are interested in.

All training days are posted on the database calendar and members should RSVP via the database to ensure they are catered for.

The training co-ordinator can provide suggestions for ARC members who are interested in pursuing additional training opportunities of their own accord, outside of ARC eg. With other Rehabilitation Groups. Please contact Jacky Hunt for further information if required.



# Phonies Report

What a roller coaster ride it has been for the phones this last couple of months – all due to the inadequacies of the NBN rollout and Telstra.

It came to pass that NBN was incapable of supporting the phone system ARC had been using for the past 26 years, and no thought had been given to ours' or similar volunteer organisations working with a telephone line that could be transferred from one person to another, using either their landline or mobile. This meant that for many weeks the ARC telephone line had to be restricted to one phone with one person handling it 24/7 days a week – not easy.

Despite Jan Brazel's continuing hassle with Telstra since December 2014, Telstra finally admitted there was nothing they could do. Fortunately, this is where Paul Brereton stepped in with his perhaps more advanced knowledge of the internet, modern technology and what it could do for us, and Paul has arranged that we are now using a different system which still allows us to transfer the phone line from person to person but using the internet rather than the phone line. This system has only just come into play and it is working seamlessly – so a very big thank you to Paul. I should also say that this new method of using the phone is now saving ARC approximately \$130 per month.

One thing in our favour during this stressful time is that it happened during the quieter months of winter, when things naturally taper off, but it is still great to know that we as a group were able to pull together and able to give a bit more of their time – because we all know that the phones are the life blood of ARC and without the phonies, the animals wouldn't come into care.

If you feel you would like to join our group and give up a few hours once a week, once a fortnight or whatever, please do not hesitate to contact me. Our ranks are pretty full now, but there is always room for one more.

Lesley Hale  
Phone Coordinator

## WITHOUT THE PHONIES...



... I would not have  
come into care

### **Please consider becoming a Phonie**

It only means a few hours – once a week, once a fortnight or even once a month it all helps.

Please phone Lesley Hale on 4359 1615, or email me at [halelesley2012@gmail.com](mailto:halelesley2012@gmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIPS

YOU MUST BE A FINANCIAL MEMBER TO CARE AND RESCUE

**MEMBERSHIP FORMS** ARE AVAILABLE ON THE ARC WEBSITE [www.wildlife-are.org.au](http://www.wildlife-are.org.au)

**MEMBERSHIP FEE (\$25)** CAN BE PAID BY DIRECT DEPOSIT, CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORM AND MEMBERSHIP FEES TO THE ARC POST OFFICE ADDRESS

**NEW MEMBERS** PAY MEMBERSHIP AND A \$5.00 JOINING FEE

**RENEWALS** ARE DUE BY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE EACH YEAR.

**NOTE** IF YOU RENEW BY DIRECT DEPOSIT THEN YOU ARE NOT FINANCIAL UNTIL A COMPLETED FORM IS RECEIVED

IF YOU FAIL TO RENEW YOU WILL BE TAKEN OFF ALL LISTS AND ANY ANIMALS YOU HAVE IN CARE WILL NEED TO BE SURRENDERED TO THE APPROPRIATE HEAD CARER.

RENEWAL FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE DATABASE.